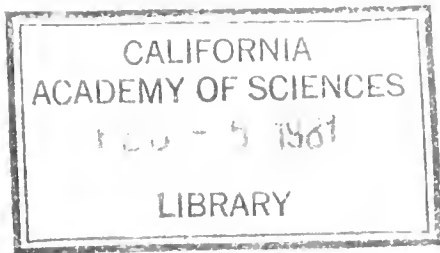


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the gull

Volume 63

Berkeley, Calif.

February 1981

Number 2

Rare Birds Come to Berkeley in February

Don Roberson, author of the recently published book, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, will be our speaker at the February general meeting. Don's book covers the status and identification of all rarities from Alaska to California. He will talk about these vagrants and show many of the original slides published in the book.

Rare Birds of the West Coast is of special interest to Bay Area birders because it has color illustrations by five of California's fine bird artists which show all those species which have occurred on the West Coast but have not been pictured in the standard American field guides. Included are such birds as Short-tailed and Wandering Albatross, Streaked Shearwater, Red-footed Booby, Mongolian Plover, Red-throated Pipit and the Farallon's new Dusky Warbler. No other book covers so extensively the identification of rare birds (would *you* know how to identify a Long-toed Stint or a Gray-tailed Tattler?). Eastern vagrants which have reached California and have made birding on Point Reyes so popular are covered. There is a major essay on the identification of *Empidonax* flycatchers and a discussion of the thrush family.

Don, now a lawyer in Monterey, is well known to many GGAS members as the former editor of the Observations column in *The Gull*, as a co-compiler of several Oakland Christmas Counts and as a teacher of Bay Area ornithology classes. His book, containing all the information

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mentioned above plus hundreds of photos, maps and graphs, will be available at the meeting at a cost of \$24.95 plus tax; you can probably twist his arm for an autograph.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, February 12, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. See you there.

—PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Field Trips Calendar

See the January *Gull* for details on the following trips:

Saturday, February 7—Panoche Valley.

Sunday, February 8—Los Banos State Refuge.

Sunday, February 15—Abbotts Lagoon. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H. From there we will caravan to Abbotts Lagoon. We will arrive at the trail head shortly after 10 a.m. If you prefer to drive directly to the trail head, it is located about three miles beyond Tomales Bay State Park.

We'll hike out to the lagoon (about three miles round trip). Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. This area is excellent for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders. Leader: Hans Johansen (237-9909).

Sunday, February 22—San Pablo Reservoir. Meet at 10 a.m. at the intersection of San Pablo Dam Rd. and Bear Creek Rd. From Berkeley take Wildcat Canyon Rd. to its end (the meeting site). From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit and go left on Camino Pablo to its end (the meeting site). We will hike about 1.5 miles along a paved road between the Maintenance Station and Midpoint Recreation Area. Birding will be in grasslands, pine and oak woodlands and streamside willows. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Sue and Bob Watson (254-4077).

Saturday, February 28—Berkeley Marina and the Northern Alameda County shoreline. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Berkeley Marina parking lot by the pier. From I-80 take the University Ave. exit and go west (left) to the Marina. This area is also accessible by A.C. Transit Line #51-M. We will caravan north along the Alameda County shoreline and perhaps into Contra Costa County. Bring your scopes and be prepared for muddy conditions. Lunch is optional. We should see shorebirds and waterfowl. Leader: Leo Hallford (521-9550).

Saturday & Sunday, February 28-March 1—Honey Lake. Call the leader for details. This trip is limited to 25 persons. Lodging is available in Susanville; primitive camping is also available in the area. We

should see Sage Grouse, Bald Eagles, longspurs and other birds of the eastern Sierra. Leader: Tony Briggs (282-3142 or 626-3131). The latter number is an answering service so ask for Tony by name. (✓)

Saturday, March 7—San Francisco Bird Blitz. Participants in last year's trip saw at least 98 species within the City limits. This year's mad dash to build-up the biggest "City" day list possible will begin at **7:30 a.m. sharp** at the Lake Merced Circle (located at the south end of Sunset Blvd. and at the north end of the lake). From there we will caravan to other sites including Golden Gate Park, Land's End and Candlestick Point. We will bird until dusk when we will adjourn to Celia's Mexican & American Restaurant where for a minimal cost we can avoid going home to cook dinner. Please contact Alan by March 1 if you plan to join us for dinner. Leaders: Donna Lion, Alan Hopkins (668-4840) and Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-9853 (Richmond) and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Dan Murphy (564-0074) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

Early December Observations – Through December 14

This column covers only two weeks because Karen and I were birding Ecuador during the last half of December. Early December is somewhat a lull between fall birds and those found on Christmas Counts.

TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Several species are rare, but so regularly seen in season that birders do not consistently consider them worth reporting. Usually Joe and I hear of observations that weren't reported to us. Prominent cases of such marginal rarities during winter are Cattle Egret, Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Oldsquaw, Harlequin Duck, Bald Eagle, Rock Sandpiper and Dipper. Most of these are very reliable at a few favored sites and are thus taken for granted. When non-reporting develops it makes listing all the reported birds pointless and perhaps they *are* too common for such treatment. I will cite only the more interesting observations of these species.

One Cattle Egret was at Point Lobos State Reserve Dec. 12 (CD). Two Oldsquaws were found off tidewater: on the Salinas River at Hwy.

1 Dec. 13 (DR) and on the Stockton Sewage Ponds Dec. 3-5 (WK, JP). Ten Blue-winged Teals on the Castroville Sewage Ponds Dec. 13 (SW, JG) was a rather high count for our area. Three Dippers at Sunol Regional Park (SL, *et al.*) are more than are usually seen there.

WINTER WATERBIRDS

The first Yellow-billed Loon paused at Bodega Bay Dec. 6 (JW). Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels passed a boat off Monterey Dec. 7 (MH, BD, *et al.*). Coastward Whistling Swans were eight on Briones Reservoir Dec. 13 (NB) and three on Rodeo Lagoon Dec. 14 (TB). A pair of like-minded Snow Geese was at Castroville Sewage Ponds Dec. 13 (SW, JG). A Blue morph Snow Goose inhabited Gray Lodge Dec. 11 (HG, *et al.*). One Tufted Duck stayed at Muddy Hollow at least through Dec. 9 (JP, BDP, DE). Another male Tufted Duck returned Dec. 12 to Mill Valley where it wintered last year (GMcM). An American Golden Plover on a park lawn in Redwood Shores Dec. 11 (HL, BL) was a surprise.

LARGELY LINGERING LANDBIRDS

In Santa Cruz birders discovered Northern California's second **Olivaceous Flycatcher** on Dec. 7, the fifth anniversary of our first one (EM, AM). It was confirmed and seen by many through at least Dec. 13. In Alameda a *Myiarchus* flycatcher seen Dec. 7 was not an Olivaceous and was believed an Ash-throated (DRi). The Hall Ranch **Common Skylark** remained through Dec. 9 (JP, BDP, DE). An attractive concentration was the 38 Mountain Bluebirds along the BLB Access Rd. off Little Panoche Rd. on Dec. 14 (SM). Observers lured by the Olivaceous Flycatcher found male and female "Bullock's" Northern Orioles and one or two Western Tanagers lingering at the same spot (DR, EM, AM, RM, *et al.*). A few are expected at this time. A tanager, probably a Western, was at Mills College Dec. 10 (JP). Four or five Lapland Longspurs were still at Hall Ranch Dec. 9 (JP, BDP, DE).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Nora Baines, Tony Briggs, Nancy Conzett, Brian Daniels, Cliff Dickason, Doug Ellis, Helen Green, Jeff Greenhouse, Mitch Heindel, Woody Kuehn, Bruce LaBar, Barbara Lucas, Hal Lucas, Susanne Luther, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, Grace McMichaels, Steve Miller, Randy Morgan, Joe Morlan, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John Parmeter, David Rice (DRi), Don Roberson (DR), Gil West, Steve Wilson, Jon Winter.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720
(phone 548-9507; or Karen L. Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

1980 Oakland Christmas Count Results

Naturally I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's count. It's one thing to come out and have a good time in the sun, but this year's participants should get the award for wetness above and beyond the call of duty. It was particularly tough on the group leaders who kept trying to dry out all the forms they had to turn in. Of all the participants, Ray Hasey deserves special mention; he not only came up from LA for the count but agreed to take on an additional area when one of the groups cancelled the night before the count. Deborah Hirt deserves a toast for organizing the dinner and Hazel Houston and her assistant, Eleanor Joslin, are commended for preparing a wonderful meal. Jerry Emory should also be thanked for being so patient with a first-time compiler and Bob Hirt and Don Roberson did a fine job on the rare bird committee — it's nice to have someone of Don's expertise making the tough decisions.

For the record, here's the tally (unusual numbers or species in bold-face):

Common Loon 51, Aretie Loon 1 (low), Red-throated Loon 13, Red-necked Grebe 7, Horned Grebe 294, Eared Grebe 100, Western Grebe 951, Pied-billed Grebe 178, Double-crested Cormorant 737, Brandt's Cormorant 55, Pelagic Cormorant 14, Great Blue Heron 49, Green Heron 3, **Cattle Egret 2** (Don Roberson, Diane Maeario), Great Egret 131, Snowy Egret 180, Black-crowned Night Heron 50, **Canada Goose 3495**, **White-fronted Goose 1** (Russ Wilson, Joe McGee), Mallard 734, **Gadwall 15**, Pintail 1927, Green-winged Teal 101, Eurasian Wigeon 2, American Wigeon 1251, Northern Shoveler 348, Redhead 8, Ring-necked Duck 58, Canvasback 1093, **Greater Scaup 5379**, **Lesser Scaup 10,479**, scaup sp. 12,142, Common Goldeneye 689, Barrow's Goldeneye 18, Bufflehead 1020, White-winged Scoter 165, Surf Scoter 10,825, Black Scoter 3, scoter sp. 1000, **Ruddy Duck 6774**, Common Merganser 28, Red-breasted Merganser 75, merganser sp. 5, duck sp. 1120.

Turkey Vulture 13 (low), White-tailed Kite 9, Sharp-shinned Hawk 16 (low), Cooper's Hawk 12, accipter sp. 1, Red-tailed Hawk 110, Golden Eagle 2, Marsh Hawk 11, Merlin 2, American Kestrel 107, California Quail 837, **Ring-necked Pheasant 36**, **Clapper Rail 38**, Virginia Rail 1, Sora 4, Common Gallinule 1, American Coot 3371, Semipalmated Plover 128, Killdeer 320, Black-bellied Plover 555 (low), Ruddy Turnstone 27, Black Turnstone 19, Common Snipe 33, Long-billed Curlew 73, Whimbrel 14, Spotted Sandpiper 12, Willet 794, Greater Yellowlegs 11, yellowlegs sp. 1, Red Knot 26, Least Sandpiper 562 (low), Dunlin 1724 (low),

Short-billed Dowitcher 664, Long-billed Dowitcher 981, dowitcher sp. 760, Western Sandpiper 2234 (low), Marbled Godwit 1764, Sanderling 1280, peep sp. 812, American Avocet 1512, Black-necked Stilt 32.

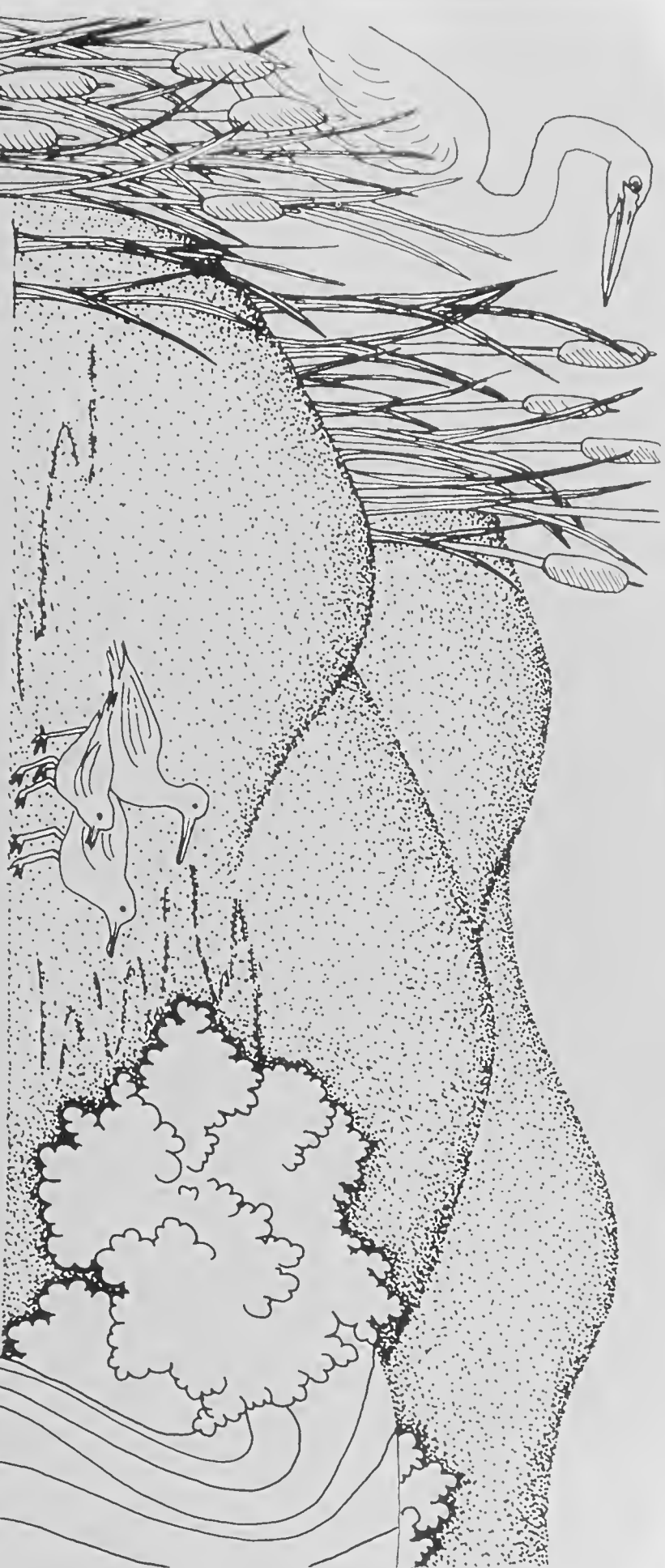
Glaucous-winged Gull 1204, **Glaucous-winged x Western Gull 3** (Don Roberson, Diane Macario), Western Gull 2644, Herring Gull 99, Thayer's Gull 14, California Gull 1241, Ring-billed Gull 1748, Mew Gull 98 (low), Bonaparte's Gull 74 (low), Heermann's Gull 1, gull sp. 2684, Forster's Tern 104, **Common Murre 1** (Doug Gomke).

Band-tailed Pigeon 173 (low), Rock Dove 1163, Mourning Dove 1254, Barn Owl 2, Screech Owl 6, Great Horned Owl 35, Pygmy Owl 1, Burrowing Owl 5, Short-eared Owl 3, Saw-whet Owl 6, Anna's Hummingbird 362, Belted Kingfisher 16, Common Flicker 412 (408 Red-shafted, 1 Yellow-shafted, 3 unk.), Acorn Woodpecker 14, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 10, Hairy Woodpecker 8, Downy Woodpecker 27, Nuttall's Woodpecker 35, Black Phoebe 59, Say's Phoebe 11, Horned Lark 3 (low), Steller's Jay 413, Scrub Jay 779, Common Raven 6, Common Crow 118, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 906, Plain Titmouse 216, Common Bushtit 2065, White-breasted Nuthatch 20, Red-breasted Nuthatch 55, Brown Creeper 59, Wrentit 419, **Dipper 1** (Eugene and Akiko Makishima, George Hugenberg), Winter Wren 15, Bewick's Wren 167, Long-billed Marsh Wren 3, Mockingbird 53, California Thrasher 41, American Robin 2212, Varied Thrush 16 (low), Hermit Thrush 149, Western Bluebird 139, **Golden-crowned Kinglet 185**, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 687, Water Pipit 77 (low), Cedar Waxwing 619, Loggerhead Shrike 20, Starling 5960, Hutton's Vireo 28.

Black-and-white Warbler 1 (Eugene and Akiko Makishima), Orange-crowned Warbler 3, Yellow-rumped Warbler 280, (4 Myrtle, 108 Audubon's, 168 unk.), Townsend's Warbler 20, Common Yellowthroat 6, House Sparrow 507, Western Meadowlark 405, Red-winged Blackbird 611 (low), Tricolored Blackbird 3 (low), Brewer's Blackbird 1916, Brown-headed Cowbird 17, Purple Finch 26 (low), House Finch 976 (low), Pine Siskin 102 (low), American Goldfinch 704, Lesser Goldfinch 305, Rufous-sided Towhee 418, Brown Towhee 1153, Savannah Sparrow 107, Lark Sparrow 4, Rufous-crowned Sparrow 2 (low), Dark-eyed Junco 1746 (10 Slate-colored, 1734 Oregon, **2 Pink-sided**/Bob Hirt, Jim Lanc/), White-crowned Sparrow 2008, Golden-crowned Sparrow 2109, White-throated Sparrow 5, Fox Sparrow 416, Lincoln's Sparrow 10, Song Sparrow 441, sparrow sp. 33.

166 species, 4 additional races and 1 additional hybrid, totalling a reported 123,782 individuals.

—DOUG GOMKE, *Compiler*



Spring Seminars
Audubon Canyon Ranch
4800 Highway One, Stinson Beach, CA 94970

ILLUSTRATION OF INTERTIDAL LIFE

MARCH 13-15

Illustration of the intertidal life

Small Animal Safari - A Family Program April 13-15

Here is your chance to help answer those questions from kids about the small critters they bring home. Spend three days at the ranch and nearby natural areas and seek out the small and secretive reptiles, amphibians, insects and mammals. We'll look at homes, signs, tracks and habits. If you're curious about what's on the undersides of rocks and logs, don't miss this easter vacation special. Families \$75., Individuals \$40.

Secrets of Seashore Flowers

May 1-3

Come explore the flower fields of Pt. Reyes in spring-time. We will learn to identify the myriad blooms and study their reproductive cycles. Pt. Reyes has many common as well as rare colorful species and we shall seek them out at the Headlands, Abbotts Lagoon, Olema Valley and Pt. Reyes. \$30.

Waders and Wetlands

May 15-17

Audubon Canyon Ranch was created to protect and foster the breeding and feeding areas of Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons. This seminar teaches you about ACR's history, the lives of large waders and wetland birds in general. We will tour ACR's Tomales Bay Sanctuaries at Shields Marsh, Olema Marsh and Cypress Grove on Saturday. On Sunday, Helen Pratt (in her 15th year of studying the rookery) will teach us about heron and egret behavior.

SPRING 1981 SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE REGISTER ME IN THE FOLLOWING COURSE(S):

I HAVE ENCLOSED MY CHECK, MADE PAYABLE TO AUDUBON
CANYON RANCH, FOR THE AMOUNT INDICATED IN THE
BROCHURE.

For more information contact : VOLUNTEER CANYON, 4800 Highway 1,
Stinson Beach, Ca. 94970 , (415) 868-0611.

the Bolinas Lagoon. Chuck Stasik, Marine Biologist and professional illustrator, will teach the techniques of line drawing, shading, stippling and scratchboard. \$45.

FROM BRANCHES TO BASKETS:

A WEEKEND OF WEAVING

MARCH 20-22

As we learn to weave with native, cultivated and introduced plants, we will discuss traditional uses of fibers. A rare collection of California Indian baskets will be used to show materials, form and function in weaving design. Beginners and intermediate weavers will enjoy the class. \$40.

THE BOLINAS ESTUARY:

A COLLAGE OF COMMUNITIES

APRIL 3-5

One of the largest estuaries in Marin County, Bolinas Lagoon has remained a haven for wildlife despite increasing pressures. We will spend a weekend exploring the life of this valuable tideland and the diverse plant communities surrounding it. Includes a paddle on the lagoon in rafts. \$35.



Spring Birding Classes

This spring GGAS again is sponsoring three evening field ornithology classes, taught by Joe Morlan, in conjunction with the Galileo-Marina Community College Center in San Francisco. Each class consists of an illustrated 2½-hour lecture. All classes are free and last 18 weeks. No pre-registration is necessary — enroll by going directly to the classroom, room 254, Marina Middle School, on the day and hour indicated below. The school is at the corner of Fillmore and Bay streets and there is ample free parking in the lot adjacent to the west side of the school with the entrance on Bay St.

Beginning Field Ornithology is designed for those with no previous birding experience. It covers the characteristics of the major orders and families and deals with the common birds found in various habitats in the Bay Area. Meet Tuesday, February 3, at 7 p.m.

Intermediate Field Ornithology is designed for those who already know most of the common species but who wish to sharpen their birding skills and develop a high level of competence in field identification. It systematically treats all the non-passerine species, starting with loons. Meet Wednesday, February 4, at 7 p.m.

Advanced Field Ornithology is a continuation of Intermediate and treats land-birds, starting with pigeons and doves. Meet Thursday, February 5, at 7 p.m.

An additional program of eight half-day field trips arranged on weekends to observe wild birds in natural habitats is available for a fee of \$24. Details will be announced in each class.

Bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

For further information call the college at 931-3595.

February Cooper Society Meeting

Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences will discuss courtship and aggression in finches at the February 9 meeting of the Cooper Society. A business meeting at 7:30 p.m. precedes the 8 p.m. lecture in Room 2503 of the Life Sciences Building on the UC campus.

Conservation Committee Notes

For other Conservation Committee articles, see pps. 20-21.

The Mono Lake Subcommittee wishes to thank those who responded so heartily at the 1980 Christmas Count dinner to open Golden Gate Audubon's fund-raising drive to help defray the legal fees for the suit against the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. About \$175 was contributed by participants in the Christmas Count. Thank you.

A View of Mono Lake

As a lad of eight, I returned to California for the first time since infancy. That October cross-country automobile trip took me through a number of the most spectacular natural settings in the nation: the Great Smoky Mountains, across the Mississippi River into Arkansas, the Grand Canyon, Oak Creek Canyon, the Colorado Desert. But not until the following June did I go on the first of many family excursions into the Yosemite Sierra. Of course, the first spectacular view of Yosemite Valley from Inspiration Point will remain with me always but the real highlight of that trip was the vision of the Mono Basin from the Old Tioga Pass road on the slopes of Lee Vining Canyon.

Perhaps it was the stark contrast of the shimmering deep blue waters of Mono Lake against the hot, arid vastness of the basin; who can say? As we went further down the canyon, more questions issued from my mouth. What were those strange-looking "islands" that stood up in the lake like columns? What were all those white specks on the water? Why, they're SEAGULLS! What are they doing here?

In subsequent years, I have learned a great deal about the whys and wherefores of the Mono Basin. I have also seen the shores of the lake recede back from Highway 395 many tens of feet, the "islands" of tufa towers become landlocked, Negit Island become a peninsula and the huge numbers of what I now know to be California Gulls dwindle much earlier in the season than in the past. The vast basin the child saw over 20 years ago has become seemingly larger as the azure waters shrink in size. Some days the entire basin becomes choked with huge clouds of alkali dust as the winds sweep down out of the surrounding mountains.

Now I wonder how much longer other youngsters will be afforded even the magnificent vistas to be seen today in Mono Basin, how many generations to come will know of the teeming lifeforms of the lake itself and its surroundings. All attempts at legislation aimed at protecting the lake have failed to pass. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) cries out that it cannot allow any of the diverted waters out of its clutches today because the precedent might allow water rights to be taken away in the future, thus denying L.A. water it will "need" at some later date. It seems obvious that the lawsuit entered into by National Audubon Society and others against LADWP is our best hope for the present and for the future. The return of Mono Lake's shoreline to pre-1978 levels is the only means by which other youngsters will be able to ask, "What are all those white specks on the water?" and to answer, "Why, they're SEAGULLS!"

—JON ZABLACKIS, *for the Mono Lake Subcommittee*

Alaskan Lands Act

In early December, the Senate version of the Alaskan Lands Act Bill was passed and signed into law by President Carter. Thus the American people became the recipients of the largest public land set aside in history. Its total acreage is about 100 million acres.

The House of Representatives had passed a bill, proposed by John Seiberling and Morris Udall and supported by the Alaska Coalition, which would have set aside 125 million acres. However, the Senate bill, proposed by Senator Paul Tsongas, prevailed. Conservationists were disappointed because the final measure not only reduced the total size of the area set aside, but also because other aspects of the original proposal were weakened. The wilderness areas were reduced, oil exploration was mandated in the William O. Douglas Arctic Wildlife Range and the Admiralty Island National Monument (a Bald Eagle nesting area) and the Misty Fjords were opened to clearcut logging.

Nevertheless, the end result must be viewed as a conservation victory because of its protection of the Alaskan wilderness and the enormity of its coverage.

—ANN BAECK, *for the Legislative Subcommittee*

Backyard Birders' Question Box

How do small birds protect themselves against cold weather?

The feathers of birds serve as excellent insulation against cold and are most dense during the winter after the postnuptial molt. As we know from the popularity of down for bedding and garments, a bird's fine downy feathers help to retain its body heat. Ruffling the outer feathers also creates insulation by trapping air which keeps out the cold. A perched bird seen on a cold winter day may seem to be twice its actual size because of this fluffing.

Birds have very little exposed skin and, while resting, may tuck the bill or a leg under the feathers to conserve heat. Shivering can increase warmth by stimulating muscle activity and roosting, if possible, in a sunny spot during the daytime and in sheltered places during storms and at night helps the bird to keep warm.

In very cold weather, hummingbirds as well as others may become torpid, with the heart rate, body temperature and oxygen consumption being much reduced. If this condition lasts too long the bird may die. Since we sometimes have freezing weather in our area, people who have hummingbird feeders could help by filling them with a solution of one part sugar to four parts of water as an emergency energy source. If a torpid bird is found, holding it gently in warm cupped hands will generally revive it so that it can fly. Even if you do not regularly feed birds, you

might consider putting out a few crumbs during periods of bad weather to give our regular winter residents an extra energy boost.

If you would like to share information on bird behavior that you have observed or if you have a question about the birds that are commonly found in our area, write to Kay Steinberg, 850-38th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121.

News from the Ranch

Audubon Canyon Ranch, a 1000-acre wildlife and education center, is located on Hwy. 1, 25 miles north of San Francisco and three miles north of Stinson Beach on Bolinas Lagoon.

The Great Blue Herons will begin arriving at Schwarz Grove during February. By March 1, the opening day of the season at Audubon Canyon Ranch, nesting activities — displaying, vocalizing, presentations, nest repair or nest building — will be in full swing atop the well-worn redwood trees.

The Ranch will be open to the public on weekends and holidays from Sunday, March 1, to July 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Small organized groups may make arrangements for visits on Tuesday through Friday by calling the Ranch Secretary, Edris Cole (415) 383-1644. Please be sure your reservations have been confirmed before you arrive. **THE RANCH IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS.**

There will be binoculars at Henderson Overlook and someone who knows the birds well will be there to interpret what you have seen. There are picnic tables behind the bookstore and display hall for your convenience and enjoyment. A warm and attentive welcome awaits you!

A list of spring classes offered at Volunteer Canyon has been included with your newsletter. Perhaps one will pique your interest in an exciting learning experience in that beautiful setting. Join and enjoy!

MACE SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES—FOR LONE BIRDERS?

Training in the civilian use of mace for self-defense will be offered each Monday and Wednesday, 6:30-9:30 p.m. (six hours) at Marina Middle School, San Francisco. Certification fee is \$3.70. For information and registration, call 931-3595.

Thanks! to everyone who took time to write or call me in response to my letter in last month's *Gull*. Your comments and suggestions were appreciated in every case and I hope more readers will follow your example and let me know their views on *The Gull's* content.

Space is filled this month, but next issue I plan to include some of these comments.

—NANCY CONZETT, *Editor*

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS

Gift of

Grace St. Amand
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In memory of

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Gloria L. Copeland
Gloria L. Copeland
Paul and Marion Covel

In honor of the marriage of

Clark Gleason and Roxie Dial Alameda South Shore Count Group

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

Kenneth Funsten

In memory of

Jane Semel

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In honor of

Maria Gregg
Ruth Voss

Blanehe Vranina
Blanche Vranina

For Signs for S.F. Exploratorium

Contra Costa Hills Club

For California Condor

In memory of

Aileen Murphy

Hubertus and Katherine von Marsehall

For Mono Lake Project

Elsie Roemer

In memory of

Alvin Miller

Bonnie Baker
Gwen Baker
Chris Baker

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February 1981

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Executive Director, Jerry Emory (843-2222)

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$20 per year (individual); \$25 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$5 per year; single issues 75¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**